

Weather Forecast

Showers or thunderstorms tonight, early tomorrow; cooler tomorrow.

Temperatures today—High, 81, at 2 p.m.; low, 60, at 7:45 a.m. Yesterday—High, 85, at 4:10 p.m.; low, 50, at 4:45 a.m.

Late New York Markets, Page A-13.

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1945—THIRTY PAGES. ★★

Guide for Readers

Page.	Page.
After Dark.....B-11	Lost and Found, A-3
Amusements.....B-10	Obituary.....A-12
Comics.....B-14-15	Editorial.....B-15
Editorial.....A-9	Society.....B-3
Editorial Articles.....A-9	Sports.....A-10-11
Finance.....A-13	Woman's Page.....B-6

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PATCH AND PATTON FORCES NEAR JUNCTURE

3d Army Flanks Siegfried Line And Secondary Hunsbrueck Line

Saarlautern Falls; Many Thousand Nazis Captured

(Map on Page A-3.)

PARIS, Mar. 20.—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American 3d Army today completely flanked both the Siegfried Line and the secondary Hunsbrueck Line in the Saar and Palatinate and moved swiftly toward a juncture with Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's 7th Army somewhere near the Rhine.

Unverified reports reaching supreme Allied headquarters said the two armies already had achieved a juncture farther west in the Saarbrücken area, closing a smaller trap and sealing off Germany's last great war industry belt short of the Ruhr.

The 3d Army flanked the two German fortification belts by capturing Alzey, a Hessian town founded by the Romans from which railroads fan out to Kaiserslautern, Worms and Mainz. The main Siegfried Line is just east of the Saar River and just north of the Alsatian border. The Hunsbrueck switch line through the mountains was anchored to the main line at Metz and in the Karlsruhe corner of the Rhine.

Saarlautern Captured.
The 3d Army finally captured Saarlautern, the Saar steel city of 32,000, after three and a half months of battle. The suburbs of Ensdorf, Saarlautern-Roden and Fraulautern also were taken.

To the north of this area, other of Gen. Patton's forces had reached a point within 9 miles of Mainz, on the Rhine at the mouth of the Main River. The Germans blew up three Rhine bridges at Mainz. In all the Patton army took 45 towns yesterday.

Still farther north, Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army east of the Rhine drove 2½ miles east of the Ruhr-Frankfurt superhighway and captured a second airfield in their bridgehead, now at least 19 miles long and 8 miles wide. Already, Gen. Hodges' tanks were debouching on the plain east of Bonn, flat land leading to the Ruhr from the south.

Big 1st Army Attack Reported.
The Germans said the 1st Army had launched a heavy attack in the southern end of the bridgehead, penetrating 7 miles into German lines beyond Hoenningen to reach the Rhine opposite Andernach. If true, this would lengthen the Remagen salient to 23 miles and place Gen. Hodges' troops within 10 miles of the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, opposite Koblenz.

The Ruhr itself was partly conquered; many of its factories were smashed by shells whining as far east as Essen.

Gen. Patton was forging one of the most complete victories the western front has yet seen. In seven days his offensive has inflicted at least 45,000 casualties on the original 80,000 Germans in the Rhine-Moselle-Saar pocket. Correspondent E. D. Ball said in a dispatch from the front.

The 3d Army counted 8,355 prisoners yesterday for a record single day's take by any Allied army in the west—but it was estimated that the total for the day would reach from 15,000 to 20,000 when the count was completed. One division took 6,700 alone.

The 7th Army bagged thousands more—the exact count was not announced.

Heavy Aerial Assault.
Allied planes were so thick over the front today that they had to queue up for attacks on Germans streaming along a superhighway from Kaiserslautern to the Rhine.

Gen. Patton's troops crashed to within 4 miles of the major Palatinate road center of Kaiserslautern and captured Alzey, which is 23 miles from the chemical centers of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen on the Rhine. The 3d Army was less than 25 miles from the 7th Army in the Kaiserslautern area. Correspondent Ball messaged:

With the Siegfried Line flanked, the 3d and 7th Army should meet shortly somewhere near the Rhine.

The 7th Army attacking the Saar

Nazis Trapped in East Prussia Open Dikes to Slow Russians

Pocket Southwest of Königsberg Cut To 100 Square Miles, Reds Say

By the Associated Press.

MOSCOW, Mar. 20.—German forces trapped in a dwindling pocket on the East Prussian coast southwest of Königsberg were reported today to have opened the coastal dikes and turned the lowlands into a big lake in an effort to halt a Russian extermination drive.

A Red Star dispatch said the waters of the Frisches Haff (lagoon) were pouring into an inland basin below sea level where "frightened German soldiers are unable to put up an organized resistance and many are throwing away their guns and fleeing."

A communication last night said the pocket had been cut to little more than 100 square miles—about 18 miles in length and 5 miles from the sea at its deepest point—and that the two major towns in the area, Braunsberg and Heiligenbeil, were under direct attack.

The Germans reported action today on two fronts on which the Russians were silent. The Nazi high command said Red troops, launching a renewed offensive in Hungary, have smashed to within less than 12 miles of Komárom on the Danube northwest of

Budapest. Berlin broadcasts said the Russians had thrust out a huge drive to clear Upper Silesia, capturing Neustadt. The town is 25 miles west of the Oder River and only 3 from the Czechoslovak frontier. Berlin said the Reds were attacking on an 80-mile front.

Although rains have softened the ground, Russian tanks carrying toploads of machine guns are cruising steadily into the perimeter of the enemy pocket, the Red Star dispatch said.

"The road of battle southwest of Königsberg is ceaseless," it added. "In the muddy lowlands the Russians were forced to haul artillery pieces forward by hand through fields pitted with bomb craters. In advances of up to 3 miles yesterday along a 25-mile front, the Russian forces approached to within 1 and 3 miles, respectively, of Braunsberg and Heiligenbeil, capturing more than 30 communities and 2,138 prisoners.

Dispatches reported steady progress by Red Army troops fighting through the Silesian capital of Breslau. The German air force was said to be still trying to ferry supplies to the besieged garrison under cover of darkness.

Carrier Force Blasting Japan For Third Day

Enemy Fleet Ignores Challenge; Kobe And Kure Blasted

By the Associated Press.

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Mar. 20.—Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's mighty carrier force was reported bombing Japan today—a third straight day—defying the imperial fleet to come out for battle despite enemy communique claims that seven of Admiral Mitscher's capital ships were sunk and one damaged.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that carrier pilots moved northward yesterday to loose bombs and rockets against shipbuilding Kobe and a major naval base, Kure, on the home island of Honshu. Sunday, carrier planes sent probably 2,500 tons of bombs winging down on Kyushu and Shikoku, industrially vital islands at the southern end of the empire.

"Enemy attacks are still continuing," the Tokyo radio said in an English language broadcast to the United States today. The broadcast did not say whether the raid was on Honshu or whether the bombers had returned against Kyushu.

15 Carriers Reported in Group.
Tokyo identified the raiders as "the mainstay of Task Force 58"—the carrier force which leaped into fame last June by destroying 405 Japanese warships on one day; then sinking or damaging 17 Japanese warships in a thrilling sea chase the next.

The enemy radio said the force comprised five groups of ships, including 15 carriers, and was about 300 miles south of Shikoku when first sighted Sunday. It added that Japanese flyers were continuing their attacks against the United States Fleet.

Japanese communiques claimed, without confirmation, that Japanese planes sank seven American warships and heavily damaged one in counterattacks Sunday and yesterday, while 183 carrier aircraft were shot down. Unofficial Tokyo broadcasts admitted the loss of at least 20 planes.

If Admiral Mitscher is continuing his attack, the total tonnage of incendiary and explosive bombs and rockets fired at the empire in three days would exceed 7,000 tons. B-29s dropped 2,500 tons of incendiaries on Nagoya yesterday in a return attack from that industrial city. Carrier planes loosed an equal or greater weight as 1,400 of them roared over Kyushu and Shikoku Sunday and over Kobe and Kure yesterday.

Shipyards and Shipping Blasted.
Japanese shipping in the inland sea and at Kobe Harbor and shipbuilding and ship repair yards, already overtaxed by battle-damaged vessels, were prime targets of yesterday's strikes.

American pilots defied land-based Japanese fighters and anti-aircraft as they swept in to strike Kobe and Kure, both of which had to be reached by crossing Honshu from the east, or Shikoku from the south.

The raids probably were aimed at blasting small cargo vessels out of service, as well as destroying war plants and rail installations. With her merchant fleet heavily damaged, Japan feverishly has been building new merchant vessels for several months in the hope of eluding submarines as they carried their vital cargoes to homeland's factories from China, Korea and Manchuria.

Kobe still was smoldering from Saturday's 2,500-ton incendiary raid by 300 Super Forts when the carrier planes struck. One of Japan's most congested cities, Kobe is an important iron, steel and ordnance center, as well as major shipbuilding city.

Heat Brings Out Cherry Blossoms Days Early
The single-blossom cherry trees are in bloom around the Tidal Basin today and will remain in full flower for about a week, National Capital Parks office announced today.

Only once before in the history of the trees, in 1927, have they bloomed as early as March 20.

"The heat last night did it," Edward Kelly, special assistant to the parks superintendent said. The blossoms usually do not appear till early in April and even with the unprecedented warm temperatures lately Mr. Kelly had not expected them until Saturday.

The double-blossom trees usually bloom about two weeks after the single ones. But the freakish weather has made Mr. Kelly cautious about predictions. Continued warm weather might bring them out earlier, he said, but on the other hand sudden colder weather would retard them.

"I don't want to forecast anything," he said.



Medley Faces Prompt Trial as Prosecutors, Police Study Evidence

Pleas of Not Guilty Entered for Suspect At Murder Hearing

(Pictures on Page B-1.)

District prosecutors today moved swiftly to bring Joseph Medley to an early trial in the slaying of Mrs. Nancy Boyer, as the 43-year-old convict was held without bond on homicide and fugitive charges.

Medley faced United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage this morning for arraignment on the fugitive charge on which he was brought here from St. Louis by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents yesterday. He was arraigned immediately after his arrival yesterday on the homicide charge, but declined to make a plea then.

Mr. Turnage, who agreed last night to grant Medley a week's postponement to seek counsel, today indefinitely postponed the arraignment on the fugitive charge and entered pleas of not guilty for the prisoner on both counts.

It appeared likely that the United States court would go ahead with the indictment despite the delay in completing the arraignments. If Medley is indicted, he probably will be arraigned then by a District Court judge, who will set a date for trial.

Study Evidence Today.
Government prosecutors arranged a conference with Washington police and the FBI for this afternoon to go over the evidence and Assistant United States Attorney John W. Fihely promised that "we're going to move as fast as possible to bring this prisoner to an early trial."

Medley appeared to be in a jovial mood as he arrived at Mr. Turnage's office in the custody of three deputy marshals this morning. He held his head up, posed and told photographers, "All right, boys, you can take them now."

His refusal to show his face to photographers yesterday was because "he wasn't shaved," Deputy Marshal Charles H. Ward said the man afterward explained.

Medley also told Mr. Ward that he was awaiting "some word" on an attorney to defend him.

Asked by reporters if he had had a good night's sleep, he smiled and replied, "Well, I did."

"Like a Circus."
Appearing much less resentful over the presence of newsmen than he was on his arrival yesterday, Medley commented that "they've got to make a living," and asked: "Did you see that mob at the station? It was like a circus around here yesterday."

Medley was taken to the cell block at District Court to be photographed, fingerprinted and questioned for the jail record.

Acting United States Marshal C. Michael Kearney said Medley would be held in the cell block most of the day to give homicide squad detectives another chance to question him, as well as to give Medley an opportunity to obtain counsel.

Medley already has gone through one stage of questioning by Washington police. Last night, Medley, according to his police interviewers,

British Leaders May Come to Washington For Food Discussion

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Mar. 20.—Food Minister John J. Llewellyn said today that he and Oliver Lyttelton, Minister of War Production, might go to Washington soon to discuss British meat and food supply situation, but added that no definite decision had been made.

Mr. Llewellyn said he considered the recently-announced cut in American meat supplies to Britain as "still fluid," and indicated there would be no cut in the meat ration at least until all factors have been weighed.

"We are still getting our meat from Argentina," he said. "Otherwise the meat ration would have come down."

"It has been stated that it was thought in the United States that we have some 700,000,000 tons of food in store in the United Kingdom," the Food Minister said. "I wish it were true. The fact is we never at any time during the war had stocks of anything like that size."

Food Czar Demanded By GOP; Widespread Inquiry Is Planned

Congress Will Study Everything From Rackets To Foreign Stock Piles

By the Associated Press.

Republican demands for a one-man national food boss sounded on Capitol Hill today as Congress itself stepped into the picture to find causes and remedies for the food shortage.

"This matter," said Representative Jenkins of Ohio, chairman of the Republican Congressional Food Study Committee, as he and other members of the group issued their call for centralized control.

Their contention was that only by solving the problem of increasing food shortages and preventing greater ones from developing.

Both Senate and House, meanwhile, moved to investigate everything from black markets to foreign stock piles as they affect the food situation.

Gets \$5,000 Appropriation.
Chairman Thomas of the Senate Agriculture Committee told a reporter he will meet with a special subcommittee this week to map immediate action on an inquiry authorized yesterday by the Senate.

The group was given \$5,000 to look into "production, processing, distribution and transportation" of food.

In the House Chairman Sabath of the Rules Committee promised consideration of three different proposals for investigations. Representative Anderson, Democrat, of New Mexico asked creation of a special five-member committee (See FOOD, Page A-4.)

Dickstein Defends La Guardia in House Argument on Curfew

Calls Citizens Differ, But Rich and Colmer Hotly Dissent

Brief but spirited argument rose in Congress again today over Mayor La Guardia's action defying the Government midnight curfew order on night spots.

Representative Dickstein, Democrat, of New York contended New York City should be exempt because its citizens "are different from other people." But to this Representative Rich, Republican, of Pennsylvania and Colmer, Democrat, of Mississippi hotly dissented.

Mr. Colmer, a frequent administration critic, defended the midnight closing order of War Mobilization Director Byrnes as helpful to the war effort and criticized Mayor La Guardia's action in setting the New York curfew at 1 a.m.

"It seems to me that when we have a mayor of a great city defying the Government we're getting in a pretty bad condition," Mr. Rich said. "The mayor is making his own regulations."

Mr. Colmer called for nationwide observance of the Byrnes order, "the Little Flower notwithstanding."

New Drive Launched.
"New York is different from Mississippi or Pennsylvania," Mr. Dickstein retorted. "The people are just as patriotic as others, but it's a city of 7,500,000. And thousands of soldiers are walking the streets at all hours looking for a place to eat."

Senator Bridges, Republican, of New Hampshire had previously asked in the Senate that the Government make its order apply to New York or drop the idea for the country as a whole.

Meanwhile, a new drive on the midnight curfew was in the offing as New York stood pat on its "hour of tolerance."

While the entertainment interests in most of the large cities announced that they would go along with the three-week-old Byrnes order, which hit both public and private enterprises, Arthur Garfield Hayes, counsel for the Allied Food and Entertainment Industries of Greater New York, said he had written Mr. Byrnes asking for a public hearing on the regulation.

Similar agitation also was in evidence in New Jersey, where liquor dealers expressed fears that their customers would skip across the Hudson to New York for more leisurely tipping, after the 12 o'clock closing hour.

Tavern Owners Meet.
Counsel for the State's licensed beverage association said tavern representatives would meet today with Alfred E. Driscoll, New Jersey Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner, and George S. Pfau, Newark area director of the War Manpower Commission, to seek modification of the curfew.

In a lengthy statement declaring that "this appeal to the Nation has

been made by the Nation has

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Administration Curb on Farm Benefits Beaten

House Group Vetoes Budget Bureau Move For Cut in Program

By the Associated Press.

An administration move to curb farm program payments next year drew a veto today from the House Appropriations Committee as it approved an \$833,801,932 Agriculture Department supply bill.

The move to cut the payments, made to farmers for land conservation and utilization practices and as incentives for production, was made to the committee by the Budget Bureau during hearings on the bill to finance the department for the 12 months beginning July 1.

General farm program payments now are limited by law to \$300,000,000. The Budget Bureau proposed a \$200,000,000 limitation for the 1946 crop.

The committee, however, said it doubted the wisdom of limiting the program in advance without a recommendation from the Agriculture Committee.

Benefit Payments Boosted.
The committee boosted by \$10,000,000 the Budget Bureau's recommendation for \$290,000,000 for farm benefit payments for the 1945 crop, making the figure \$300,000,000. These payments are in addition to approximately \$560,000,000 in direct subsidy payments to be made by the War Food Administration to encourage production of milk and sugar.

The item for farm program payments, which have helped boost United States food production to record highs, was the largest in the measure.

The total in the bill for all Agriculture Department activities was \$56,958,207 over current year appropriations, but \$141,499,350 below budget estimates. The reduction from these estimates was accounted for largely by cuts of \$90,000,000 in loan authorizations for the Rural Electrification Administration, \$57,500,000 in the Rural Rehabilitation loan fund and \$10,000,000 in the Farm Tenant loan fund. These more than offset increases approved for other departmental activities.

Large Individual Allocations.
Large individual allocations, in addition to the various benefit payments, include:

Payments to States under the extension service program, \$14,198,950, in addition to \$7,001,208 for experiment stations; eradication of tuberculosis and Bang's disease in cattle, \$5,848,000; meat inspection service, \$7,400,000; regional research laboratories, \$4,000,000; forest protection and management, \$16,349,100; War Food Administration, \$13,636,472; Federal Crop Insurance, \$7,984,900.

The committee recommended that the Commodity Credit Corp. be permitted to use \$6,562,000 of its funds for administrative expenses. The money would be used to pay a ban against sale of Government-owned or controlled farm products at less than parity prices for most commodities.

It approved continuance of the school-lunch program at an estimated cost of \$50,000,000, and marked \$25,000,000 of the \$40,000,000 farm tenancy loan fund for advances to returning servicemen.

REA Loan Fund Boosted.
The \$60,000,000 recommended for REA loans, while \$90,000,000 below budget estimates, was an increase of \$35,000,000 over current year authorizations for that purpose.

Although the printed hearings devoted hundreds of pages to the Commodity Credit Corp., the committee barely mentioned the CCC in its report to the House.

The hearings were marked by sharp questioning of CCC officials concerning reports voiced in the House that 20,000,000 pounds of lard were permitted to spoil and were sold for soap purposes, that the government failed to make the most out of a sale of 450,000 tons of raisins, and that thousands of pounds of scarce food items acquired by the CCC for lease-lend and price support purposes were allowed to spoil.

Ralph W. Olmstead, vice president and director of the CCC, gave the committee this information:

Loss of CCC-acquired food by spoilage has amounted to 1-25th of the amount handled; 180,825 cases of eggs purchased for food were diverted to animal feed because of lack of storage space; 399 railroad cars of potatoes were lost through spoilage; the CCC was overcharged approximately \$26,000 by the New York firm of Luvch, Donut & Dee under contracts for reconditioning food at ports.

Made by Army.
Mr. Olmstead said the allocation of the 20,000,000 pounds of spoiled lard, stored near Cincinnati, was made to soap manufacturers by the Army Quartermaster Corps.

The 450 tons of raisins, he said, were sold to the Empire Frosted (See APPROPRIATIONS, Page A-3)

New Overseas Edition Will Be Out Tomorrow
A new issue of The Star's Overseas Edition will be ready tomorrow. Free copies, with envelopes for mailing, may be obtained at The Star's business counter and the Victory Bond Booth in Lansburgh's Department Store.

The edition is strictly limited. Please do not waste a single copy.

RAF Bombers Attack Germany's Largest Rail Yards at Hamm

Hundreds of Warplanes Rake Enemy Positions Close to Battle Front

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Mar. 20.—British heavy bombers attacked Germany's largest freight yards at Hamm and another railway junction at Recklinghausen on the northern fringe of the Ruhr in a continuing devastation of the Nazi communications system today.

Hundreds of other warplanes raked enemy positions close to the front, resuming the pounding which the Germans nearly 5,000 vehicles yesterday.

About 500 planes took part in this twin blow, delivered ahead of another large-scale attack by United States 8th Air Force bombers. The Flying Fortresses and Liberators, out later than usual, still were bombing as the British fleet made its way home.

The United States 9th Air Force flew more than 1,000 sorties from forward continental bases before noon, losing one fighter. Four Nazi fighters were destroyed around and one in the air.

28th Berlin Attack.
The RAF made its 28th consecutive raid on Berlin last night, but this time the Mosquitos struck shortly before dawn instead of about midnight. Other night bombers attacked a variety of communications targets from the Ruhr to Hannover and south to Coblenz.

Approximately 8,000 Allied planes swarmed over Germany yesterday in one of the greatest mass sweeps in the history of the war.

The tactical air fleets had their biggest day since the trapping of the Nazis in the Falaise gap last summer.

The United States 9th Air Force flew more than 2,300 sorties against rail, motor and horse-drawn traffic from the Ruhr to the Saar Valley. Medium bombers claimed 4,292 vehicles of all types destroyed or temporarily knocked out and rail lines cut in 200 places.

10 Planes Lost.
The 9th reported the loss of 10 planes in its operations.

The British 2d Tactical Air Force flew 1,500 sorties, losing seven aircraft. Railways were cut in 80 places and a number of transport depots containing more than 500 vehicles were wrecked.

Allies destroyed 67 German planes yesterday, 47 in aerial combat and 20 on the ground.

Little interference was offered by the German air force to the close-support operations, but they tried hard to get at 1,200 American bombers which raked jet plane bases and war factories in Southern Germany.

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES ON THE RHINE, Mar. 20.—An airplane parts factory hewn out of the interior of a mountain has been captured by troops of the 78th Division whom I talked to today. Its capture was incidental to occupation of mountain tops along the Rhine, several of them crested with ancient castles.

The factory was captured by a company of an infantry regiment under the command of Lt. Col. Richard Keyes of Houston, Tex. The company, with Lt. Henry Lovette of Camden, S. C., in command, toiled up a nearly vertical cliff, 1,000

Mandalay Is Cleared And Mogok, Burma's Ruby Capital, Seized

Allied Heavy Bombers Fly 3,000 Miles to Blast Thailand

By the Associated Press.

CALCUTTA, Mar. 20.—British 36th Division troops have occupied Mogok, world's ruby capital, 65 miles northeast of Mandalay, and an equal distance west of the Burma road city of Lashio, in the Allied drive to rid the area north of the Mandalay-Lashio road of the Japanese.

(A Reuters dispatch said Port Dufferin, Japanese stronghold in the center of Mandalay, had been captured.)

A BBC dispatch heard in New York by NBC said Mandalay was completely in British hands today.

In the Mandalay fighting, British troops continued mopping-up operations against Japanese ordered to resist to the last. British 20th Division troops pushing northeast from Ava are astride the Rangoon-Mandalay railway and have entered the southern part of Mandalay.

Thailand Hit in Long Raid.
American and British B-24 bombers of the Strategic Air Force, flying almost 3,000 miles in one of the longest missions ever flown by Liberators, raided enemy communications on the Kra Isthmus in Thailand, some 245 miles southwest of Bangkok, and results were